

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on June 23, 1975 with Chairman, Thomas Colgan presiding.

The minutes of the March 24 meeting was circulated and on motion was approved.

A letter was received from Warren Hoffman resigning his position as constable. He is no longer a member of the Safety Committee.

A letter was received from Frank T. Cary, Chairman of National UN Day. United Nations Day is October 24, 1975. He requested that we appoint a chairperson for October 24, 1975.

Trustees report by Cy Liberman. A memorial meeting will be held for Philip Cohen on June 29 at 7:30 P. M. The Trustees have requested that the Advisory Committee make recommendations for the vacancy on the Board of Trustees. The Trustees will then submit their nominee for acceptance by referendum.

The Trustees circulated their financial report. As of end of June there was about \$13,000. in delinquent taxes.

New Castle County will administer the Federal Insurance for Flood Control and if you want this insurance you should apply through the county. The Trustees report on motion accepted.

Carl VonDreele, Chairman of the Board of Assessors, explained the Assessors report that had been circulated.

The base rental rated for the year beginning March 25, 1976 is:

First 1/4 acre or less	30.00 per 1000 sq. ft.
Above 1/4 acre	22.00 per 1000 sq. ft.

These base rental rates were determined from land values estimated to be \$5,000. for 1/4 acre and \$16,000 for a full acre, together with a return rate of 6.5%.

Application of the base rental rates is modified under the "domicile Rule" which will be as follows: "The base rent for any lot which, for the purpose of producing income, contains more than one domicile in the form of separate dwellings or apartments, shall be equal to the rent at the '1/4 acre' rate times the number of such domiciles, or the rent at '1/4 acre' rate for the entire lot, whichever is the lesser. All land in excess of the '1/4 acre' rates times the number of domiciles shall be subject to the 'above 1/4 acre' rate."

Factors to add to base rate are as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Lots adjacent to Arden or Sherwood Forests | 10% |
| 2. Lots fronting on Arden or Sherwood Forests (i.e. across an intervening road) | 5% |
| 3. Lots adjacent to or fronting on any of the greens (Village, Sherwood, Meadow, Or Communal) | 5% |
| 4. For lots being used commercially, either under commercial zoning or as a non-conforming use in a residential area | 75% |

The factors for any lot which has one side partially adjacent to or fronting on a forest or green shall be adjusted by the ratio of the fronting or adjacent footage to the total footage of that side of the lot.

The above rate structures should yield \$105,000. in rental income.

Aaron Hamburger did not support the assessment entirely and favored a higher base rental rate. The income will present a financial crisis in two years if the proposed redistricting of schools become law. Shaul Gladstone thinks residents should be aware the percentage for small lots is much higher than that of large lots. Last year the Board of Assessors tried to stabilize an interest rate based on 10 year base. This was not used this year.

Some residents resented the subsidizing of large lot owners, but others pointed out that large lots cannot be divided and large lots do add to the beauty of the village.

The factor of 75% for commercially zoned lot or a non-conforming use in a residential area was questioned. New Castle county taxes are much higher for the only lot in question. Cy Liberman felt that it should be reworded to commercial use in residential area. The domicile rule should be rephrased. The commercial zoning rule does not apply to what would be known as cottage industry.

Motion was made to receive the report with the recommendation that the two controversial sections be reworded prior to the September Town Assembly. The motion carried.

The Auditing Committee examined the Trustees books and found them correct with the exception of amount of \$470 which represents the amount of exemptions for low income senior citizens. The Trustees explained that they authorized the return of this money paid to them by the county to be paid to the senior citizens in question. The committee also recommended that in the case of carry-over accounts, that the carry-overs be allowed only for items for which contractual obligations have been made before the end of the fiscal year. The committee report on motion accepted.

Budget Committee report by Chairman, Paul Thompson. The committee reported that it finds no single item or combination of items that will deviate by \$1000. from the budget because of unanticipated expenditures or lower income. The Trustees report that was circulated confirms this. The report on motion accepted.

Civic Committee report by Warren Hoffman. The committee held two meetings and three tours of Arden.

The spring road program is nearly completed. This included repaving of Hillside west of Harvey Road, Orleans Road from Hillside to Harvey Road, Lover's Lane, and the Highway. 700 feet of concrete gutter and three valley gutters were installed on Orleans Road. Cost of this work is about \$16,000. Additional road work will be performed when money is received from Revenue Sharing and Municipal Street Aid funds. Suggestion that colored concrete be used would require additional cost and the regular concrete weather-in rapidly as it is washed with dirt. Fieldstone curbstones will be reinstalled in some locations. Extended negotiations with Wilmington Suburban Water Corporation and New Castle County sewer department resulted in getting the cave-in at Cherry Lane and Millers Road repaired.

Maintenance of the Village commons, painting and maintenance of playground equipment, forests is being done by Wally and Linda Scott. Newton Vandever has had to retire because of ill health, but the committee is pleased by the work being done by his daughter, Linda and her husband.

The Civic Committee is charged under Ordinance No.4 with issuing permission for exclusive use of Commons. Permission to use the Commons should be sought as far ahead of the event as possible. Application for use should be made to the Chairman of the Civic Committee, Mary Morley or other committee members. Final permission will not be issued until the matter has been reviewed by all members of the committee if there are special considerations. The policy is to grant permission unless there is a compelling reason not to.

The policy of the committee is to refuse permission to park cars on the Greens unless there is no realistic alternative. Permission to park will generally only be granted for very large scale affairs which are sponsored by a community organization. The committee voted to request the Safety Committee to have a Constable present at the beginning of all events in the future where parking might be a problem. Discussions will be held soon with the Safety Committee to establish procedures and delineate responsibilities of the two committees for granting parking permission.

The Arden Club has been granted permission for parking on the Arden Green and Sherwood Green for the Arden Fair only, but greens must be promptly repaired if any damage occurs.

Permission was granted to the Wilmington Montessori Association to plant a privet hedge in front of the Buzz Ware Village Center. The Montessori Association agrees to keep the hedge trimmed.

The Appeal to the Civic Committee published in April, 1975 of the ARDEN PAGE raised a number of issues that had not been brought to the attention of the Civic Committee. The Civic Committee did work closely with the Community Planning Committee in the seeking of a federal grant for the porous road project.

Cost of road construction is rising much more rapidly than the inflation rate; therefore, it is good financial sense to do as much work as promptly as possible. Concrete curbing is only installed where it is necessary to solve drainage problems. The report on motion was accepted.

The Community Planning report was given by Ethel Monfort. The pump house on Meadow Lane was removed and the site graded and seeded by the New Castle Sewer Department. The committee requested that the Civic Committee install about 50 feet of post and rail fence to complete the rehabilitation of the Meadow Lane community property.

The Merry-Go-Rounders project to rehabilitate the Arden stile with the new hand carved sign by Harold Monfort is nearing completion. Mike Curtis contributed a new post. This rebuilding of the stile area is the Merry-Go-Rounders gift to Arden for its 75th birthday. The installation is scheduled for August.

Engraved tree name signs have been made for the trees in the Memorial Gardens and will be completed during the summer.

The committee expects to hear about the Government Grant for porous road by the end of June. Next open meeting of the committee will be September 8.

On motion the report was accepted.

Registration Committee report 419 eligible voters.

The Safety Committee report was presented by Shaul Gladstone.

The Safety Committee is involved in the following:

1. Policing the greens
2. Re-issuing and up-dating the Safety Code summary issued on August 9, 1972.
3. Checking into the necessity of:
 - a. Additional signs announcing woodland rules and regulations.
 - b. Lane dividing line in front of Gild Hall.
4. Working on possible legislation governing:
 - a. Shrubbery obstructing visibility on roads.
 - b. Carrying ofside-arms in Arden

Under new business , we will introduce a motion to appoint our new member, Harold Monfort, a Constable of Arden.

The committee offered a heartfelt vote of thanks to our retiring member and constable, Warren Hoffman, for his devoted and untiring service to the committee and the community.

The committee recommends that everyone make note of and use the police emergency number.

If motor cyles are making unnecessary noise and speeding, try to take license number and agree to be a witness.

There have been reports of a resident carrying side-arms and the committee will check into this.

The report on motion accepted.

Buzz Ware Village Center by William Morley. ACRA is using the facilities this summer and numerous meeting are being held there. The hope to install a new front door, replace the rain spouts and replace the oil burner. The Committee will review the financial situation with the Montessori Association. The report on motion was accepted.

The Advisory committee met with the Chairperson, Dora Johnson, of Arden's 75th Anniversay committee. Under new business, we will consider their request for financing. On September 9 the Advisory Committee will consider candidates to recommend for a Trustee. The report of the committee on motion was accepted.

Hugh Roberts reported on action of Delaware League of Local Governments. Arden should support action on Coastal Zoning. The first impact will be need for drilling operations, rail and port facilities. Hugh Roberts is willing to monitor activities and developments for Arden.

National League of Cities policy in transportation is to back movement of people and freight.

Community Development emphasis will now be people oriented and codes should be written in that manner.

Collective Bargaining will mean high tax rates for many municipalities. Highway Maintenance Program. Might learn a lesson if they are really aware of porous pavements. Arden might use Harvey Road as a demonstration project. No action taken on writing a pro-forma letter on major areas of Legislative interest to municipalities circulated by Hugh Roberts. His report on motion accepted.

Deborah Colgan represent Arden at the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Wilmington Metropolitan Area Planning Council on May 1. There were two items of business which are of importance to Arden.

1. Mr. Harry Raign was re-elected to the WILMAPCO Council as representative of the New Castle County municipalities.
2. The Council approved the Community Planning Committee's proposal for porous paving for Flood Control. If Arden receives fund, the result of effectiveness of flood control would be shared with other communities.

Temma Tanzer reported that the Harvey Road Committee is inactive.

Arden Annexation Committee report by Shaul Gladstone.

Ardentown decided to pursue separate incorporation. After they have completed this phase, they have promised to contact the committee again.

A meeting was held with Ardencroft on May 14 and that village is ready to move for more or less immediate action. They are studying the comparable documents governing both villages. The Annexation Committee will present a motion under new business changing its function to one that formulates specific plans for effecting merger with Ardentown. Report on Motion accepted.

Report of special committee to plan for the celebration of Arden's 75th birthday has been meeting regularly since March. Many interesting events are planned such as plays, dances, musicals, arts and craft shows, photography exhibits, walking tours, historical features, a reunion of former residents and present residents on October 5.

Commerative plates, tiles, notepaper, and an illustrated map have been prepared for sale. The committee under new business is requesting that the Town Assembly authorize the use of \$1,200 from the Contingency Fund for capital with which to work until funds can be realized from the sales of articles.

Dora Johnson is the Chairperson of this committee. The report on motion accepted.

Aaron Hamburger reported for the school district that if the present plans for desegregation are approved the school taxes will increase greatly. A citizens committee has been formed and Arden representatives are: Anna Naff, Leon Tanzer, Thomas Stapleford, Irene O'Conner.

The State Legislature made a 2% reduction in over-all budget which will have a disastrous affect on teachers salaries.

The final reading of Ordinance 7 as amended was read.

Thomas Stapleford proposed the following amendment be made: Add after Village of Arden, on or into roads, trails, paths, greens or forests of Arden without first obtaining a permit from the Safety Committee.

A motion was made to table action on Ordinance #7. Vote of 37 to table action and 17 against tabling action.

The Registration Committee conducted the election for a replacement on the Buzz Ware Village Center and reported that Marjorie van Gulick received the highest number of votes.

A motion was made that the Town Assembly authorize the appropriation of \$1,200 from the Contingency Fund for expenses of the Arden's 75th Anniversary Committee. The Motion was passed unanimously.

The Safety Committee made a motion that carried that "Harold Monfort, our newly elected committee member be appointed a constable of Arden, and upon such appointment be sworn in by the Chairman of the Town Assembly with the following oath:

I, Harold Monfort, do hereby swear (or affirm) that I shall faithfully carry out my duties as a Constable of the Village of Arden, and shall assist all duly constituted law officers, acting within their rights, in preserving peace and order, and in compelling obedience to the ordinances of the Village and the State of Delaware."

The following motion was made by Shaul Gladstone:

"I move on behalf of the Arden Annexation Committee that the committee be directed by the Town Assembly to augment its role as fact-finder by actively pursuing an investigation into those steps which would be necessary to effect a merger between Arden and Ardencroft. It is to be understood as a portion of this motion that the Town Assembly is not committing itself to any course of action as a result of said investigation, and that in any case competent legal advice would have to be sought before any action at all is taken. The motion was carried.

It was suggested that the Community Planning Committee act on behalf of Arden with the Delaware Bicentennial Committee.

The Town Assembly passed a resolution to send a letter of condolence to Edna Cohen on the passing of Philip Cohen.

Leon Tanzer felt that our tax program should be re-evaluated.

He made the following motion:
"that a Committee be selected by the Chairman of the Town Assembly to review and re-evaluate our present tax program and to make recommendations for improvements or changes thereto as it may find desirable or necessary.

That an open meeting of the Town Assembly be held during the first quarter of 1976 at which time the Committee will present its findings and town members can present their viewpoints."

A motion was made to table this motion. The tabling motion was defeated by a vote of 8 ayes and 28 nays.

On motion the motion carried.

The meeting on motion adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morley
Mary Morley
Secretary